

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2013
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USCINCEUR
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0333

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: JUNE 6 IN THE AZORES PASSES PEACEFULLY

1. DESPITE SOME RESERVATIONS BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE UNOFFICIAL AND LARGELY SEPARATIST ORGANIZED CEREMONIES MARKING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1975 POPULAR UPRISING ON SAO MIGUEL ISLAND AGAINST THE GONCALVISTA GOVERNMENT WENT OFF PEACEFULLY IN MOST OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS A SCUFFLE THAT ENSUED BETWEEN SEPARATIST AND COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS IN FAIAL ISLAND WHEN THE RIVAL GROUPS CROSSED PATHS.

2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE SEPARATIST CONTROLLED PONTA DELGADA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT, ALL LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MANY BUSINESSES WERE CLOSED. THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE FLEW STUDENTS FROM TERCEIRA AND FAIAL TO PONTA DELGADA TO COMPETE IN INTER-ISLAND ATHLETIC CONTESTS.

3. THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (RGA) PLAYED NO OFFICIAL
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PART IN THE CEREMONIES. THE RGA SIMPLY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATE TO THE REGION'S AUTONOMY PROCESS, AND THE NATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST RESURGENCE, AND APPEALED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER.

4. COMMENT: ON THE EVE OF THE EVENT, RGA PRESIDENT DR. MOTA AMARAL TOLD THE AMCONSUL THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE

SEPARATISTS WOULD STIR UP TROUBLE, THEREBY JEOPARDIZING RECENT
ADVANCES WON IN AUTONOMY TALKS WITH LISBON. CONSEQUENTLY, THE
RGA HAD DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCES.
IN THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD ASK THE REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY TO DECLARE THE DATE AN OFFICIAL REGIONAL HOLIDAY.
THE DEFT DECISION BY THE STRONGLY ANTI-MARXIST COMMANDER OF THE
AZORES AIR ZONE TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH JUNE 6
EVENTS PROBABLY REFLECTED HIS DESIRE TO PORTRAY THE DATE AS A
NATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST AS OPPOSED TO SEPARATIST MILESTONE
AS WELL AS TO CHANNEL YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM INTO ACCEPTABLE
ACTIVITIES.
MACK

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